

UTILITY NEWS

Providing economical, safe and reliable electric, natural gas, sewer, and water services to the Fremont community

CITY OF
FREMONT
NEBRASKA PATHFINDERS

JUNE 2015

Inaugural Issue of Utility News!

Beginning in June, utility customers will receive a newsletter inserted with their utility bills every other month. Newsletter information also will be available on the City's website with access to relevant ways to lower your energy use, address safety issues, and more. In addition, our eLibrary, Quick-Tips, and home energy or carbon footprint calculators may help you better manage your energy costs. You also may subscribe to the Utility News electronic residential newsletter. You will find articles on water conservation, green initiatives, and the latest energy technologies for your home. It will be delivered directly to your email inbox every month free of charge.

You can access all of the energy resources through the e-communication.

Go to the fremontne.gov website and click on Residents > Utilities to sign up now.

Keeping Sewers Clean

Your Utility operates and maintains 123 miles of sewer mains and 22 sewer lift stations to keep wastewater flowing to the Wastewater Treatment Plant east of Fremont. Trained personnel monitor and inspect lift stations regularly, but clogged pipes can cause sewer blockages, damaging equipment and sometimes your property.

The major cause of clogged sewers is people using toilets and kitchen sinks to improperly dispose of unwanted waste.

Never put the following down the toilet or sink drain!



- Wipes (so-called "flushable" or "disposable")
- Facial tissues
- Gum
- Dental floss
- Kitty litter
- Medication
- Coffee grounds and eggshells
- Fats, oils, and grease (FOG)

Should you ever have a sewer backup, there is no charge for the Utility to inspect the flow in the sewer main. As a preventative measure, visit with a plumber for ways to minimize the possibility of sewer blockages in your home.

It is a ceaseless challenge to keep sewer pipes and lift stations from clogging. Residents can help by properly disposing of household wastes. Most homeowner/renter insurance policies have the option of adding sewer backup coverage. For more information, go to the fremontne.gov website.



SEEING IS BELIEVING!

Toilet paper breaks down in water in less than a minute. Most other paper products do not.

To conduct your own product test, you will need:

- 2 clear pint jars with lids
- 18" white toilet paper
- 1 "disposable" wipe

Insert toilet paper in one jar and a baby or toilet wipe in the other jar. Partially fill both containers with water, apply lids, and shake for 15 seconds.

Which product is less likely to clog your sewer drain?

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Before starting any project that requires you to dig into the ground, such as building a deck or planting a tree, state law requires you to call to have underground utility lines located and marked. It's free, easy and it's the Law!

This free service (formerly known as Diggers Hotline) typically takes place within 48 to 72 hours after you call. Contact by calling 811 or in Nebraska at 1-800-331-5666. Additional information is available at the Nebraska One-Call website.

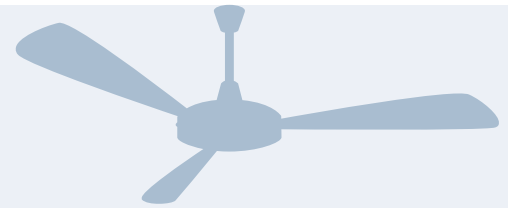


5 Energy-Saving Tips for Your Home



It's easy to save energy and increase comfort.

- 1. Focus on lighting.** Replace conventional incandescent bulbs with ENERGY STAR certified compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or light-emitting diodes (LEDs). These bulbs use 75 percent less energy and last longer.
- 2. Adjust the thermostat.** Raise or lower temperatures at night and when you're away from home. If you have a programmable thermostat, set it to optimize savings while maintaining comfort.
- 3. Go unplugged.** Many electronic devices continue to use power when they're turned off or not in use. Unplug battery chargers and any other devices when it's convenient. Use a power strip as a central point to shut off power to clustered devices.
- 4. Take shorter showers.** The typical shower uses 30 to 50 gallons of hot water, costing you money. Limit your time in the shower to 10 minutes or less. Consider installing water-efficient showerheads; it's a low-cost upgrade that can reduce energy and water use.
- 5. Use window treatments.** In warm weather, close treatments on south-facing windows to keep out solar heat during the day. In winter, open curtains or drapes during the day to let in the warmth of the sun; close them at night to retain heat.



ENERGY TIP OF THE MONTH

Proper ceiling fan rotation makes your ceiling fan efficient. In the warmer months, blades on your ceiling fan should be turning counterclockwise. You should feel a cool breeze when standing under the ceiling fan.

Remember ceiling fans cool people, not the rooms. To save energy, shut off the ceiling fan when the room is not in use.

If you are purchasing a new ceiling fan, consider buying a fan with the Energy Star certification. It means the manufacturer has met energy efficiency guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Buying Energy Star products can save you money on your utility bills.

EnergyStar.gov

Signs That You Need a New Cooling System

Upgrading to a new, energy-efficient unit can help you save energy and money, but how do you know if the time is right?

- **Your cooling system is noisy.** You could have an undersized duct system or a problem with the indoor coil of your air conditioner.
- **You are frequently calling the repairman.** Wear and tear on aging equipment may continue to cost you more in repair bills.
- **The air conditioner runs non-stop.** Your system may be leaking refrigerant.
- **Your home feels humid.** Poor equipment operation or leaky ductwork can increase humidity levels inside your home.
- **Your air conditioner or heat pump is more than 10 years old.** Replace it with an Energy Star certified model. These high-efficiency units can save you up to 20 percent on cooling costs.

City of Fremont
Department of Utilities

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